

Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

Battle Creek Commission Meeting January 5, 2016

Christine Sauvé, LLMSW – Welcoming Michigan Coordinator

WelcomingMichigan.org

f welcomingmichigan Welcoming MI



Raise your hand if...





Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

 Immigrant integration initiative of Michigan Immigrant Rights Center



- Statewide effort started in 2011
- Partner with community-based organizations & local governments
- Member of Welcoming America, network of 22 states & 58 cities



Building a Nation of Neighbors

Our Philosophy

- When it comes to immigration, it's easy to let differences separate us.
- We seek to build mutual respect among foreign-born and U.S.-born people who call Michigan home today.
- We work to support Michigan's "receiving community" members — U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns.



Our Principles

- 1. We believe the majority of U.S. residents are empathetic and compassionate people, and that this compassion is being clouded by the country's current immigration debate.
- 2. We believe most
 U.S. residents are
 hospitable, welcoming and
 inclusive of diversity and agree
 we have a shared responsibility
 to treat all our neighbors with
 respect and decency;
- 3. We are dedicated to advancing the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, including immigrants;
- 4. We recognize that immigrants are fellow human beings and reject the use of dehumanizing language;
- 5. We are committed to raising the level of public discourse concerning immigrants and immigration and;

- 6. We are committed to promoting understanding of the contributions that immigrants make to the U.S. and the effects of immigration on our communities, and to challenging common myths and stereotypes.
- We believe that
 Welcoming campaigns are an
 ideal vehicle for changing the
 public discourse on immigrants
 and immigration in our
 communities.

The Big Picture

Federal

- Immigration Reform
- Nation's First Immigrant Integration Plan
- Administrative Relief: DACA & DAPA
- Refugee Resettlement

State

Michigan Office for New Americans

Local



- Language Access
- Naturalization Workshops
- Welcoming Cities & Counties



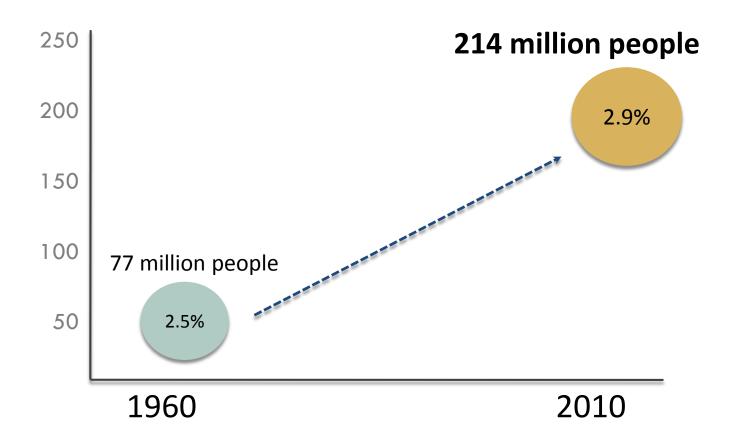
Why welcome immigrants?

- 1. Religious and moral convictions compel us
- 2. Creates stronger, safer communities
- 3. It makes economic sense immigrants are entrepreneurs & consumers

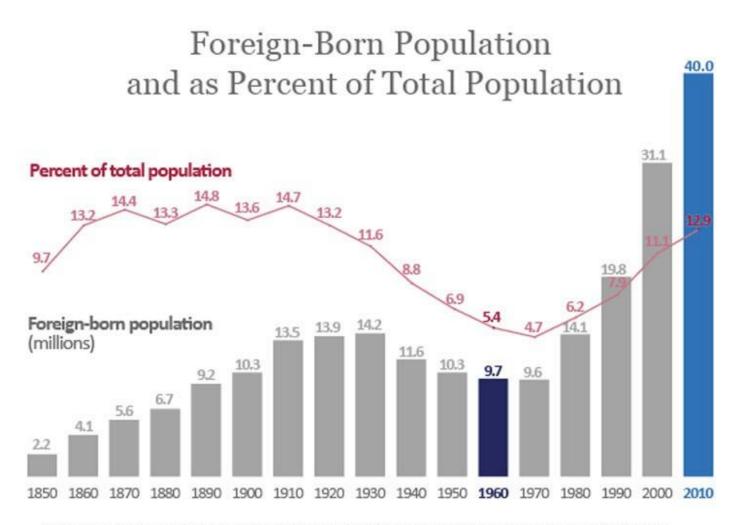




A World on the Move: International Migrants



Long-term trends



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850–2000 Decennial Census; 2010 American Community Survey.

Our Migration Past & Present



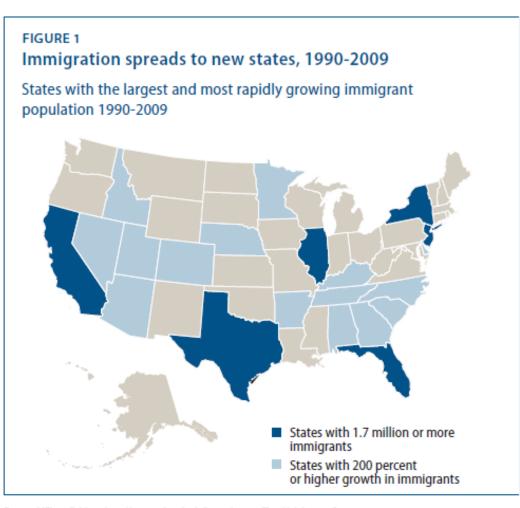
We connect by sharing our personal migration, immigration, or welcoming stories.

What do we have in common?

Just as in the past, today people move for better opportunities.

Changing Communities

- Large scale demographic change
- New immigrant destinations
- Fear, ambivalence from receiving community
- Michigan's foreign-born:
 - 3.8% in 1990
 - 5.3% in 2000
 - 6.1% in 2011
- National average = 13%



Source: MPI, available at http://www.migrationinformation.org/DataHub/maps.cfm.

Changing Communities







Engaging Receiving Communities



A welcoming community not only supports immigrants directly, but helps long-time residents understand, contribute to, and benefit from immigrant integration.

Who is the Receiving Community?

- Long-time residents
- May be very diverse
- Can be immigrants themselves



- May have conscious or unconscious fear or bias toward immigrants, or are simply ambivalent
- Elected officials, municipal staff, and community-based organizations
- Our neighbors and loved ones

Welcoming Communities

 Engage both U.S.-born & foreign-born residents in creating a welcoming atmosphere

Build relationships & mutual respect among longtime

residents & newcomers

Collaborate across sectors

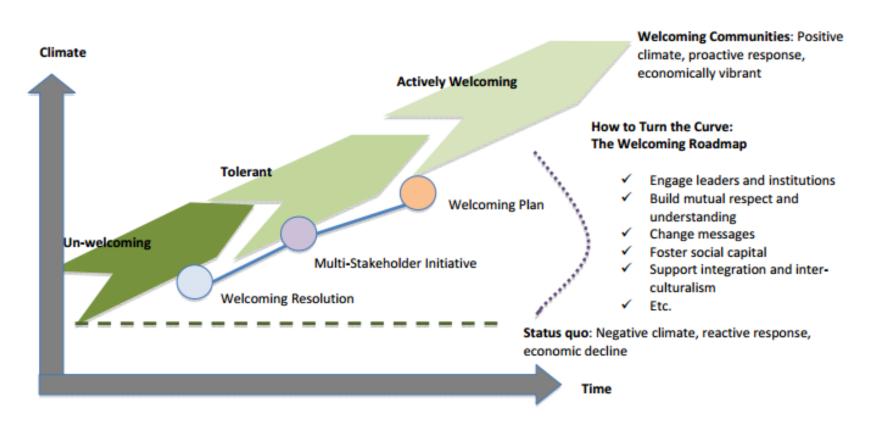
 Newcomers are able to fully integrate, participate, contribute to the social, cultural, economic fabric of the community





Welcoming Communities

The Welcoming Community Curve



Local Foreign-born Population

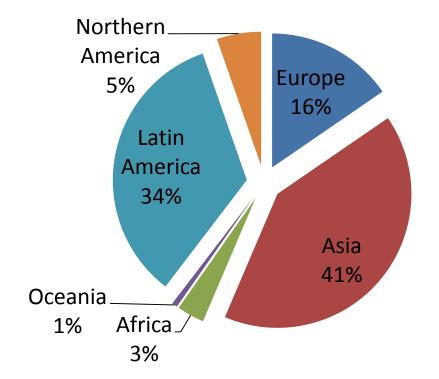
	% Foreign-Born	# Foreign-born residents
Calhoun County	2.4	3,258
Battle Creek	3.4	1,815
Springfield	3.9	198
Kalamazoo County	4.8	12,175
Kalamazoo	6.3	4,742
Portage	5	2,359
Branch County	2.6	1,180
Coldwater	4.9	621
Bronson	7.8	184

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Battle Creek Foreign-born

	Estimate
Naturalized U.S. Citizens	32.6%
Arrived between 1990-2000	53.1%
Limited English Proficient (LEP) [Speaks English less than "very well"]	2,600 = 2% of total pop. over 5 yrs [Calhoun County]

Region of Birth



U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Immigrant Children in Michigan

- 8% of Michigan's foreign-born population are children (0.5% of total state population)
- 13% of children have one or more foreign-born parent
- 86% of children with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens



Immigrants & Refugees

Immigrant Visas

- Work
- Family
- Humanitarian

Non-Immigrant Visas

- Tourist
- Student



Refugee/Asylee: must prove "well-founded fear of persecution" due to race, religion, nationality, social group, political opinion

 Since 1996, 2 million displaced from Burma (Myanmar) due to civil war and persecution

Refugee Resettlement

- U.S. signatory to UN Refugee Convention following WWII
- Refugees flee home, then apply from neighboring countries
- Rigorous security clearance takes about 2 years
- Federal process funded by Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Primary and secondary organizations provide assistance finding housing, jobs, learning English for 3 months to 5 years
- "Green card" holders, work authorized upon arrival
- About 4,000 refugees come to Michigan each year; 4% resettle in Calhoun County



Welcoming Cities & Counties

- Support locally-driven efforts to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments
- Position communities as globally competitive leaders
- Improve quality of life & economic potential for immigrants and non-immigrants alike
- 11 Michigan localities have joined national cohort of 58
 - Detroit
 - Hamtramck
 - Sterling Heights
 - Macomb County
 - Clinton Township
 - West Bloomfield Township

- Grand Rapids
- KalamazooCounty
- Lansing
- East Lansing
- MeridianTownship



♠ Building a Nation of Neighbors

Welcoming City Agenda

Immigrant focused strategies

Receiving community focused strategies

Advance the Community's Global Welcoming Profile

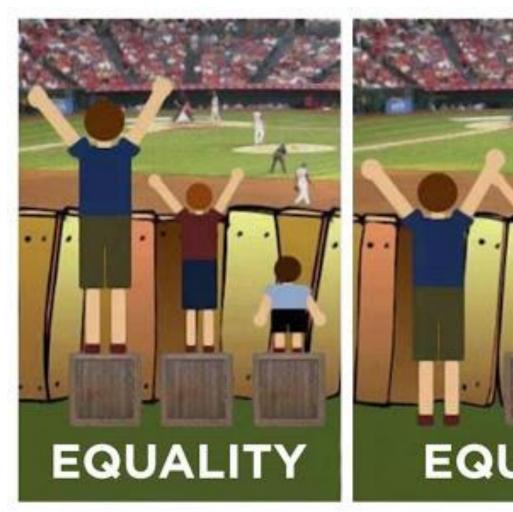
Ensure Equitable Access to Basic Services

Expand Education & Economic Opportunity

Build Immigrant Leadership, Engagement and Inclusion

Foster a Knowledgeable, Safe and Connected Community

Moving to Equity





Welcoming Cities & Counties

- **PLAN**: Government, business, non-profit, and faith sectors work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
 - Example: Welcome Dayton Plan, Chicago New Americans Plan, NYC Blueprint
- COMMIT and SUSTAIN: Enact new policies & practices to support increased access and inclusion
 - Example: Language Access Policies, Public Safety Practices, Entrepreneur Support
- **COMMUNICATE**: Messages of unity and shared values permeate community through media, voice of leaders, and among residents.
 - Example: Welcoming Ambassadors & Positive Media Communications
- **BUILD COMMUNITY**: Newcomers and long-time residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership.
 - Example: Public engagement & dialogue events

Welcoming Cities & Counties

- PARTNER with local non-profits and immigrant & ethnic community organizations
- COLLABORATE across sectors: faith, education, health, public safety, chamber of commerce

















Community Building Activities

- Education & Training
 - Race & Diversity
 - Immigration 101
- Resident Storytelling
 - Journey stories video project
 - Get To Know Your Neighbors
 - Breakfast of Nations
- Arts & Culture
 - Mural painting
 - Multicultural celebration
- Dialogue
 - Youth dialogues on diversity
 - Film screening & discussion
- Food
 - Community potluck
 - Multicultural cooking classes
- Community clean-up or service project
- Celebration weeks/months e.g. Hispanic Heritage, World Refugee Day,
 National Welcoming Week







Looking for Volunteers!

English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Program



Are you a native English speaker?



Do you like meeting new people?



Do you like learning about other cultures and sharing your own?

Sign up for monthly ESL chat sessions!



Macomb County

- Journey to embrace changing demographics
- Race, ethnicity, bias training for staff & department heads
- Improving hiring practices for multilingual applicants & people of color
- Invested in video interpretation services
- Hosts citizenship workshops & naturalization ceremonies
- Created Welcome Center in County admin building



To Join Welcoming Cities & Counties

- Brief online application & orientation
- Assign staff point person, sign commitment form
- Pass Welcoming Resolution

COMMITMENTS

- ✓ Doing local, community-focused work
- Participating in National Welcoming
 Week
- ✓ Paying dues *\$50-\$200
- Having at least one key staff contact
- Filling out an annual members survey
- Collaborating with other members in your area

BENEFITS

- + Access to our network of members
- + Access to staff support
- + Access to online member site
- + Participation in annual events
- + Training opportunities
- + Scholarship opportunties

Is Your Community Welcoming?

- Do municipal activities include residents from all backgrounds?
- Can residents with Limited
 English Proficiency access vital
 services? Recipients of federal funding
 required by Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964,
 visit lep.gov
- Does law enforcement practice community-based policing? Have anti-profiling policies? Training on religious and cultural issues?





Is Your Community Welcoming?

- Employment: Share job postings with immigrants & refugees
- Civic Life: Share open board/commission seats with immigrant, refugee, & ethnic communities
- **Training**: Arrange a staff workshop about refugees, immigrant rights, access to benefits
- Host a naturalization
 workshop or ceremony,
 publicize local resources
 for citizenship



Is Your Community Welcoming?

Consider how spaces, atmosphere, and policies can be more

inclusive of newcomers

- Welcoming signs & posters
- Language access: someone to translate?
- Build relationships with immigrant and ethnic communities
- Ensure cultural competency & humility
- Participate in community meetings led by immigrant & refugee serving organizations, form new partnerships
- Recognize contributions of immigrant community members: students, businesses, volunteers, etc
- Host a film screening & dialogue





What can YOU do?

- Learn about identity & immigration issues
- Meet and spend time with local refugee & immigrant community members



• Be a welcoming ambassador! Tell others why you care



Get Involved!





Attend an Event	Learn More	Plan a Project	Put Up a Poster
Raise Your Hand	Read a Book	Read Our eNews	Send a Picture
Tell Your Story	Watch a Film	Wear a Button	Write a Letter



Take the pledge!

"I reach out my hand to welcome immigrants.

I believe that immigrants bring new
energy, new ideas, and a new commitment
to a better life that benefits us all."

Questions & Discussion



Join the Welcoming Movement!

Get involved: WelcomingMichigan.org

Contact:

Christine Sauvé
Welcoming Michigan Coordinator
csauve@michiganimmigrant.org

Tel: 734-845-8695

